

Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances: Addressing Health Care and Law Enforcement Priorities" on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List

Panel I: Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control, Alexandria, VA and Tony Trenkle, Director, Office of E-Health Standards and Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD;

Panel II: Laura Adams, President and CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute, Providence, RI; Kevin Hutchinson, CEO, Sure Scripts, Alexandria, VA; David Miller, Chief Security Officer, Covisint, Detroit, MI; and Mike A. Podgurski, R.Ph., Vice President, Pharmacy Services, Rite Aid Corporation, Camp Hill, PA.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Credit Card Practices: Unfair Interest Rate Increases."

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, announces the appointment of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD).

WELCOMING FIRST MINISTER DR. IAN PAISLEY AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MARTIN MCGUINNESS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 58 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) welcoming First Prime Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concur-

rent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, power was restored to the Assembly of Northern Ireland, opening a new chapter in the history of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Ian Paisley became First Minister and Martin McGuinness became Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness have been working to solidify the peace agreement and to govern Northern Ireland effectively; and

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness are making their first trip together to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) welcomes First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States;

(2) commends Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness for showing the world that it is possible to rise above decades of bitter sectarian violence to achieve peace; and

(3) expresses hope that Northern Ireland will continue to be peaceful and stable in the future.

DECLARING OF A COMMERCIAL FISHERY FAILURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 376 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 376) providing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Commerce should declare a commercial fishery failure for the groundfish fishery for Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, and immediately propose regulations to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 376) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 376

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce may provide fishery disaster assistance under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) if the Secretary determines that there is a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster as a result of natural causes, man-made causes beyond the control of fishery managers to mitigate through conservation and management measures, including regulatory restrictions imposed to protect human health or the marine environment, or undetermined causes;

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce has not proposed or promulgated regulations to implement such section 312(a);

Whereas during 2007, the Governors of each of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Maine, and the State of Rhode Island requested that the Secretary of Commerce declare a commercial fishery failure for the groundfish fishery under such section 312(a) and the Governor of the State of New Hampshire has indicated his intention of submitting a similar request;

Whereas since 1996, the Secretary of Commerce has had regulations in place that require significant restrictions and reductions on the catch and days-at-sea of New England fishermen in the groundfish fishery;

Whereas New England fishermen in the groundfish fishery have endured additional restrictions and reductions under Framework 42, which has resulted in many fishermen having just 24 days to fish during a season;

Whereas Framework 42 and other Federal fishing restrictions have had a great impact on small-boat fishermen, many of whom cannot safely fish beyond the inshore areas;

Whereas, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, each day-at-sea a fisherman spends in an inshore area reduces that fisherman's number of available days-at-sea by 2 days;

Whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce demonstrating that between 1994 and 2006, overall conditions of groundfish stocks have not improved and that spawning stock biomass is near record lows for most major groundfish stocks;

Whereas the Commonwealth of Maine has provided additional information to the Secretary that between 2005 and 2006, total Massachusetts commercial groundfish vessel revenues (landings) decreased by 18 percent and there was a loss for related industries and communities estimated at \$22,000,000;

Whereas the State of Maine has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce indicating that since 1994, the impact of groundfish regulations have eliminated 50 percent of Maine's groundfish fleet, leaving just 110 active groundfish fishermen;

Whereas the State of Maine has provided additional information to the Secretary indicating that between 1996 and 2006, there was a 58 percent drop in groundfish landings in Maine and a 45 percent drop in groundfish revenue from approximately \$27,000,000 to \$15,000,000 and that between 2005 and 2006, groundfish revenues decreased 25 percent;

Whereas the State of Rhode Island has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce indicating that, since 1994, there has been a 66 percent drop in Rhode Island's groundfish fishery landings and, between 1995 and 2007, groundfish revenue decreased 20 percent from approximately \$7,500,000 to \$6,000,000;

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce rejected requests from Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island to declare a commercial fishery failure prior to establishing any appropriate standard to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and